



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-CG

DEC 15 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Holiday Safety Message 2011



1. This year we have even more to celebrate, as our loved ones have returned from lengthy deployments. As we catch up with our friends and Family, let us remember the contributions made by our Soldiers and Families for the freedoms we enjoy in this great nation.
2. Fort Polk's holiday season begins on 19 December 2011 and ends on 3 January 2012. As you take to the roads and skies to visit friends and Family, it is imperative that you remember that safety is paramount. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has identified Beauregard and Vernon Parishes as high risk for alcohol related fatalities. The New Year's period rates among the highest of the year for alcohol related fatalities. Don't become a statistic. As you celebrate the holidays, remember that drinking and driving don't mix. Designate a driver or call a cab if you've had too much. Also, be particularly cautious when driving in the evening hours because the rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes is four times higher at night than during the day.
3. Along with the visible hazards, we are challenged with those which are not so visible. I ask that leaders speak with all of your Soldiers and place emphasis on suicide awareness. Dig down deep and ask the tough questions. Personal issues coupled with the stress of redeployment during the holiday season may be tough for Soldiers and Family members to cope with, so use your Master Resilience Trainers. It is now the season to decorate. More house fires occur this time of year than any other. Unplug the lights if you leave for long periods of time and don't overload the circuits. If you have a live tree, check it daily for water so it doesn't dry out and cause a fire. Once again, if you're traveling, please do so safely. Leaders are tasked to ensure POVs are inspected and ready for the trip, and risk assessments are complete. Use the JRTC road hazards map and website at <http://www.jrtc-polk.army.mil>.
4. I welcome back all of our redeployed Soldiers and wish all of you a safe and very Happy Holiday and a beautiful New Year. Thank you for all you do.

*Enjoy the
holidays. Be safe
and look forward
to seeing you next
year!*


CLARENCE K.K. CHINN
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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